

2012/13  
Annual Report



**Forest  
Practices  
Board**

## VISION

Forests that are  
managed to sustain the  
full range of forest values and  
forest resources for British Columbians.

## MISSION

The Board serves  
the public interest as the  
independent watchdog for sound  
forest and range practices in British Columbia.

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## VALUES

### THE BOARD:

- acts on behalf of the public's interest, not those of any single group;
- is straightforward in its approach;
- emphasizes solutions over assigning blame;
- behaves in a non-adversarial, balanced manner;
- treats all people with respect, fairness and sensitivity;
- performs in a measured, unbiased and non-partisan manner;
- carries out its mandate with integrity and efficiency;
- provides clear and concise reports to the public;
- bases actions and decisions on knowledge, experience and common sense; and
- is accessible and accountable.



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

### Focusing on the right questions

When the current forest practices policy was introduced, it was understood that improvements would be necessary as circumstances changed and we gained experience with the new approach.

Now, a decade later, there is clearly a need for refinement and adaptation based on what we have learned. The Board has started work on a series of reports to inform this process, beginning with bulletins on key subjects like managing cumulative effects, professional reliance, and public involvement.



During the past year, the Board made a special effort to inform the public dialogue by providing factual information as well as context for some key issues. For example, our report, *How much of British Columbia's forest is not satisfactorily restocked - and what should be done about it?* helped move the debate away from what the exact number is to focus on what ought to be done about

it, and recommended a course of action for government. The report was well received and referenced in the media, in the legislature and by the main participants in the debate.

Several reports, including four of the nine complaints published this year, recognized conflicts in the present system of tenure rights on forest land and identified a need to ensure the public's interests are being met. Another reported that progress has been made to identify and protect old-growth forests, but work is needed to determine whether biodiversity objectives are actually being met. A recent report that identified important trends in compliance with road and bridge standards can assist licensees and government to improve their quality assurance activities.

It is hoped that these, along with the work we expect to complete in 2013, will help focus the public and decision makers on the right questions as changes to the forest resource management framework are contemplated.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. A. Gorley'.

R.A. (Al) Gorley  
CHAIR

## WHAT WE DO

The Board provides the public with objective information about the state of forest and range practices, validates sound practices and recommends improvements based on direct field observation, consultation and research.

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* state that the Board:

- must carry out periodic independent audits to determine compliance and the appropriateness of government enforcement;
- may carry out special investigations;
- may make a special report and comment publicly;
- must deal with complaints from the public; and
- may undertake appeals.

Functions are performed by professional staff and contractors under the guidance of the independent Board.

### AUDITS

One of the main ways the Board gathers information is through its random, field-based audits.

Audits can be:

- limited scope compliance (specific areas or practices);
- full scope compliance (comprehensive);
- enforcement-based;

or they can examine any aspect or combination of aspects of forest practice.

The results of audits are published in public reports. Audits examine and provide assurance on whether forest practices are achieving government's forest stewardship objectives.

### COMPLAINTS

The Board can investigate complaints related to activities occurring on Crown land, such as planning and forest stewardship plans; site plans and woodlot licence plans; forest practices; range plans and practices; protection of resources, including recreational; and, industry compliance with government enforcement of legislation. It cannot deal with complaints related to private property (except in tree farm licences and woodlots), awarding of licences or other forest related legislation.

The Board investigates, reports and makes recommendations – it has no power to direct companies, individuals or government agencies to carry out any actions, though Board reports are considered to be directional by policy makers. If a complainant requires direct action, he or she must take their concern to the responsible organization or agency first; the Board's role is more one of investigation, assessment and problem solving after other avenues have been explored. Board staff may, however, be able to help with identifying agencies or companies relevant to specific concerns, as they have comprehensive knowledge of those involved in forestry and range use and management.

### SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

**Special investigations** are conducted by the Board to deal with forestry-related matters that are of interest to the province as a whole, as opposed to audits and complaints which are more targeted.

**Special reports** are issued by the Board when we wish to comment publicly on a matter, or if it's been determined that an in-depth special investigation is not necessary.

### APPEALS

The Board can appeal decisions made by government officials, such as determinations of noncompliance, penalties or approvals of



plans for forestry or range operations. Appeals can either be generated by public request, or initiated by the Board, which is charged with being an advocate for the public interest and can put forward a position on the matter. The Board can also become party to appeals launched by others (such as licensees) in order to make submissions on the case.

Appeals are made to the independent Forest Appeals Commission. The Commission makes the final decision on appeals and those determinations are legally binding.





## THE BOARD



**Current Board members:** *Back row left to right:* Al Gorley, *Chair* (RPF), Michael Nash, Andrea Lyall (RPF), William Dumont (RPF) *Front row left to right:* Dr. William McGill (P.Ag.), Dr. Rachel Holt, *Vice Chair* (RPBio), Ralph Archibald, Dave Patterson (RPF).

### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In September, the Board met in Prince George and spent a day developing its strategic priorities for the next 18 months. The three strategic priorities we have been using for the past couple of years (resilient forest, information, and fire) are still important, but they now fall into the regular business category and will not necessarily drive future special projects.

The question, "How well is FRPA Working?" continues to be a strategic priority for the Board. Project work that contributes to answering that question is a priority and the

Board has started work on a special report on forest management under the FRPA legislative framework, to help inform future policy and legislative change.

A new priority identified for this year is assembling the results of past work to produce reports highlighting important issues that have come up in multiple Board reports, particularly where the issues relate to how well FRPA is working. The first of these was our special report on road and bridge findings over the past five years, published in February 2013. Look for more reports on recurring issues to come out in 2013.

### SUMMARY OF AUDIT RESULTS

- 16** audit reports
- 7** clean audits (no issues)
- 1** positive practice commended
- 9** audits with issues:
  - 30** significant non-compliances
  - 5** areas of improvement
  - 6** unsound practices

*The majority of issues found relate to roads and bridges.*

### TOTAL AMOUNT OF FORESTRY ACTIVITY AUDITED IN 2012/13

Activity	Population	Field Checked
Harvesting (# of blocks)	619	427
Road Construction (km)	772	554
Road Deactivation (km)	373	289
Road Maintenance (km)	7011	2612
Bridge Construction (# of bridges)	47	41
Bridge Maintenance (# of bridges)	774	342
Silviculture – Free Growing (# of blocks)	570	224
Silviculture – Regeneration Due (# of blocks)	641	195
Silviculture – Planting (# of blocks)	534	262
Silviculture – Site Preparation (# of blocks)	48	12
Fire Protection (# of active sites)	27	25

## AUDITS

FINDINGS OF REPORTS PUBLISHED BETWEEN  
APRIL 1, 2012 AND MARCH 31, 2013

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of BC Timber Sales: Campbell River District, Strait of Georgia Business Area**

BCTS Campbell River and eight timber sale licence holders each had at least one significant non-compliance, while several had multiple non-compliances, as some timber sale licence holders were operating on more than one timber sale. The Board also had concerns about forest practices that were technically compliant but considered unsound. In total, this audit found 18 significant non-compliances, one area requiring improvement and six unsound forest practices.

The Board made one recommendation and in response, BCTS completed an assessment of 15 blocks identified with significant issues, has completed remediation work on six blocks and is continuing to monitor / assess five timber sale licences.

The Board made two recommendations to government to provide better guidance to ranchers and to ensure legislation adequately protects riparian areas. In response, government is considering making improvements.

### **Audit of Forest and Range Planning and Practices affecting Water Quality in Oyama and Vernon Creek Community Watersheds**

Forest practices were found to be compliant in all significant respects. Range practices had three significant findings related to damage to riparian function; damage to fish and fish habitat; and, harmful substances introduced into source water.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on Woodlot Licence W0657**

Planning and forestry activities undertaken on W0657 complied in all significant respects with legislation, except the Board found significant non-compliances with respect to:

- 1) preparing a pre-harvest map with specific information,
- 2) ensuring reforestation obligations were met within specified timelines, and
- 3) meeting annual reporting requirements.

## AUDITS



### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on Woodlot Licences W0295 and W1893**

Planning and forestry activities undertaken on W0295 and W1893 complied in all significant respects with legislation, except the Board found significant non-compliance with respect to annual reporting requirements.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on Woodlot Licences W1431, W1881 and W1888**

Planning and forestry activities on W1431, W1881 and W1888 complied in all significant respects with legislation.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on J.H. Huscroft Ltd. FL A20213**

Planning and forestry activities on a forest licence A20213 complied in all significant respects with legislation, but the Board found road maintenance was an area requiring improvement.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on Stella-Jones Incorporated, FL A20196**

Planning and forestry activities were in compliance with legislation.



## AUDITS

One of the findings of the audit of TFL 54 was that the company lacked information about the roads, bridges and culverts it is responsible for, and did not have a system to pro-actively manage them. It did not do any maintenance on its roads. Luckily no damage had resulted from the lack of maintenance at the time of the audit.

Section 79(6) of the FPPR states that a person who is required to maintain a road "must ensure...the drainage systems of the road are functional." When the legislation says that a person "must ensure" can the person be non-compliant if they have been passive, but have not failed to achieve the prescribed result(s)? There was disagreement on this point, so the Board Chair had to interpret the section in the context of Board audits. He decided that:

*The legislation would not include the term "must ensure" if it did not intend for there to be positive, deliberate action taken to achieve the results. For the Board, this means that it is reasonable for an auditor to describe the absence of positive, deliberate action as non-compliance, whether or not there has been a failure to achieve a required result. Therefore, when auditing compliance with Section 79(6) of the FPPR the absence of any proactive management to ensure achievement of the required results may be considered non-compliant by the Board.*

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd., on TFL 54**

Planning and forestry activities undertaken on Tree Farm Licence 54 complied in all significant respects with legislation, except the Board found significant non-compliances relating to road, bridge and box culvert maintenance and the reporting of silviculture obligations.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of BC Timber Sales: Mackenzie District, Prince George Business Area**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation except for a significant non-compliance with a bridge constructed by BCTS. The Board also found road maintenance to be an area requiring improvement.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on Valemount Community Forest Company Limited, CFA K2T**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on West Fraser Mills Limited, FL A18694**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation.

## AUDITS

### **Audit of Timber Harvesting, Road Construction, Deactivation & Maintenance, and Wildfire Protection Activities of 606546 B.C. Ltd., FL A19202**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation, except the Board found significant non-compliances relating to bridges being installed without required plans, use of an unsafe bridge, and road construction. The Board also found road maintenance to be an area requiring improvement.

#### **NEW AUDITS STARTED IN 2012/13 (NOT COMPLETED AT MARCH 31, 2013)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Audit</b>
Cassiar Forest Corporation, Forest Licence A64561 and Coast Mountain Hydro Corporation, Occupant Licences to Cut L46959, L49021 and L49136, Skeena-Stikine District	Compliance audit of forest planning and practices
McBride Community Forest Corporation, Community Forest Agreement K1H, Prince George District	Compliance audit of forest planning and practices
BC Timber Sales: Fort St. James District, Stuart-Nechako Business Area	Compliance audit of forest planning and practices

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of Amabilis Contracting Limited, NRFL A79575**

Planning and forestry activities on NRFL A79575 complied in all significant respects with legislation, but the Board found road management was an area requiring improvement.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of Canadian Forest Products Limited, TFL**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices on BC Timber Sales: Rocky Mountain District, Kootenay Business Area**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation. The Board also commended BCTS for practices within the Mark Creek Community Watershed.

### **Audit of Forest Planning and Practices of International Forest Products Limited, FL A16850 and A82001**

Planning and forestry activities complied in all significant respects with legislation. This audit also assessed the ecosystem based management approach used by Interfor in the area.

## AUDITS

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

In April 2012, two Board staff went to Bella Bella on the BC mid-coast to provide office and field training in forest practices auditing to the Heiltsuk Integrated Resources Management Department. The Heiltsuk are members of the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network—a coalition of First Nations on the North and Central Coast of British Columbia who are working together to protect and monitor the lands and waters of their ancestral territories. About 10 Heiltsuk participated in the two-day training session, which covered planning, sampling, field audit procedures and documentation.

Audit staff have been sharing how they have incorporated the use of digital mapping into our field and project work, including a presentation at the Association of BC Forest Professionals annual meeting in February. Staff have successfully integrated i-Pads and geo-referenced maps with electronic forms and database management, and there has been much interest in the efficiencies gained and the tools being used to do this work. If others can learn not only from what we find in our work, but how we do our work, that's an added benefit we are keen to share.



### COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

- 63** concerns received, responded to and closed\*
- 5** new complaints received and under investigation
- 9** complaint investigations completed and reports published

*\*This does not include concerns that later became formal complaints. Concerns can take up considerable resources as staff work to assist people in getting their concerns resolved without resorting to a formal complaint.*



## COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

FINDINGS OF REPORTS PUBLISHED  
BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2012 AND  
MARCH 31, 2013

### Davidson Creek Access Management

A guide outfitter complained that a forest licensee was not seasonally blocking motorized access to his guiding territory as had been done by a previous licensee. The outfitter asserted that this caused him to lose business where he offered hunting in non-motorized areas. The licensee maintained that ongoing obligations for road maintenance and silviculture required keeping the road open and that other industrial users required access.

With help from the forest ministry, a resolution was reached. It was agreed that non-locking gates and explanatory signs would be installed and that, if these measures were unsuccessful, the road could potentially be closed to vehicles during the hunting season. This case highlighted a previous Board concern that, in some instances, private interests determine priorities on public land where competing resource uses are in conflict.

### Salvage Logging and Water Flows at Cooper Creek

A rancher complained that his ranch had run short of irrigation and domestic water due to beetle salvage logging causing faster and earlier spring runoff. The altered water flow was blamed for damaging ditches and streambanks and causing summer water shortages.



The Board concluded that a series of dry years likely depleted soil moisture and groundwater, but that salvage harvesting may have compounded the problem by increasing potential for accelerated runoff. This case highlighted how, as the amount of forest disturbance increases, so does the importance of licensees identifying risk factors and considering when to

conduct professionally qualified assessments. Accelerated salvage logging increases the potential for unexpected impacts on the landscape and can potentially increase conflict between forest licensees and other Crown land resource users.

## COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

### Upgrading of the Trout Mainline Road

A First Nations group asked the Board to investigate the upgrading of several haul roads through its traditional territory. They felt that upgrading the roads would disrupt traditional use of their territory and said they had not been adequately consulted.

The Board found that consultation by all parties was done in good faith and that government consultation was consistent with an agreement between the ministry and the First Nations group. Under the agreement, the First Nations group was to provide information about potential impacts; however, the group lacked the capacity to fully provide information or respond to other government communication. As well, government did not clearly communicate that the upgrades would result in creating a major haul road. Ultimately, however, the Board found that much of the complaint was about accommodation and compensation more so than consultation.

### Toba Inlet Closing Letter

The operator of a marine tourism company that provides kayaking adventures in Toba Inlet complained to the Board that a proposed log

dump in Toba Inlet would significantly impact their business, as it was close to a camp site that they and other companies used for clients, and that they had not been consulted by the licensee. The forest licensee offered to make some boundary adjustments and remove structures during the peak kayaking period, but the complainant felt this didn't address

the main issue, which was that they could no longer offer their clients a wilderness experience.

The Board concluded that it did not have jurisdiction to investigate the approval of the log dump, as it was done under the *Land Act*; however, it felt the case was important as it highlighted an ongoing theme in recent Board reports about competing resource uses on Crown land.

"The Board recommended that the rancher take measures to avoid an accidental release of water from the trough. It also recommended that government assess the fencing around the trough. The ministry did so and advised that risk to wildlife was low and the fence was acceptable under the circumstances."

### Gilpin Creek Debris Slide

A member of the public complained that a cattle water trough installed above Gilpin Creek failed and caused a debris slide to damage the creek, and that barbed-wire fencing installed to keep cattle out of the creek was a hazard to wildlife. The Board found that the design and placement of the water trough was reasonable, though the debris slide did damage the creek.

## COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

### Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. – Forest Practices and Government Enforcement

A resident of Meadow Creek complained about the forestry practices of Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. (MCC). The Board investigated and found that some of MCC's activities did not comply with legislation and also that some were unsound.

MCC did not implement recommendations provided in professional reports, including silviculture prescriptions and road engineering reports, which created unacceptable environmental and management risks.

The Board concluded that in instances where there is a continuous and prolonged contravention of obligations, and continuing evidence of unsound forest practices, government needs to act sooner to prevent these activities from impacting Crown land rather than dealing with remediation later. Not to do so undermines public confidence in the industry.

"The Board made four recommendations, including one that government revisit its policies to enable it to take action sooner in cases where a licensee is not meeting its legal obligations and putting the environment at risk. In response, the District has done what it can to respond, but proactively addressing risk is a provincial issue for the Ministry to address."

### Aspen Logging - Grazing Conflict in the Dawson Creek TSA

In April 2011, a cattle rancher in the Peace River area complained about the harvest of mature aspen stands and the impact on cattle grazing. The rancher had a tenure to graze his cattle in the same areas in which a forest

company was harvesting timber. Within three to five years after harvest, regenerated aspen stands can become so dense that they are unusable for cattle grazing and the rancher said the forest licensee was not following agreed mitigation strategies to remedy this.

The Board found that the licensee was not incorporating the recommended mitigation strategies into its practices; however, there is no legal obligation for it to do so and no government guarantee

that forage availability targets will be met. This complaint illustrates an ongoing theme in recent Board reports about conflicts that can arise with competing resource use on Crown land.

## COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

### Biodiversity Management in the Revelstoke Timber Supply Area

Two local environmental groups complained that changes made by government to biodiversity objectives specified in the Revelstoke Higher Level Plan Order (RHLPO) might adversely affect caribou habitat.

Drafted in 2005, the RHLPO included a provision for review should caribou habitat recovery adversely affect timber supply. In 2011, an amendment was made to the order to compensate for the loss of harvestable area that had been set aside for caribou habitat.

The Board determined that the amendment maintained an appropriate amount of area for caribou, but impacted the security of old and mature forest required for biodiversity conservation. This investigation raised the question of whether government's measures for biodiversity conservation are effective. The Board remains concerned that the province does not have an adequate program in place to assess this.

### Laird Creek Landslide

Several water users complained about a landslide near Balfour that plugged water intakes and introduced suspended sediment to water systems for about 100 homes. A logging road constructed by BC Timber Sales (BCTS)

was a contributing factor to the landslide.

The Board found that BCTS's operational and technical practices were sound—they conducted appropriate assessments; implemented specialist recommendations; stabilized the road and slide path. However, the Board had concerns regarding the level of transparency in BCTS' decision-making processes and once again the theme of competing resource use on Crown land arose.





## COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC

### NEW COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 2012/13 (NOT COMPLETED AT MARCH 31, 2013)

Name	Issue
<b>Hunaker Creek</b> (Bulkley Valley)	Complaint that harvesting caused increased flows and flooding damage to property and that the licensee did not adequately notify residents prior to burning debris piles adjacent to private property.
<b>Duhamel Creek</b> (Kootenays)	Complaint that proposed harvesting in lower Duhamel Creek watershed will increase the risk of landslide, endangering resident's lives and damaging water supplies.
<b>Begbie Falls</b> (near Revelstoke)	Complaint that proposed harvesting is not consistent with a local resource use plan that had extensive public input.
<b>Bernstoff Spring</b> (near Penticton)	Complaint that cattle have damaged a water source and fencing has blocked access to crown land.
<b>Haida Gwaii Visuals</b> (Haida Gwaii)	Complaint that a licensee is not meeting legal visual quality objectives despite a regime that involves professional reliance.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS SUMMARY

- 1 special investigation completed and published
- 2 special reports completed and published
- 2 new special investigations started
- 4 new special reports started

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### FINDINGS OF REPORTS PUBLISHED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2012 AND MARCH 31, 2013

Conserving Old Growth Forests in BC:  
Implementation of old-growth retention  
strategies under FRPA

This investigation found that progress has been made in planning and implementing old-growth retention: thousands of old-growth management areas (OGMAs) have been established, and, in areas where OGMAs do not exist, specified amounts of old-growth forest are required to always be available.

"The report includes six recommendations to improve the management of old growth. In response, government is undertaking an internal review to gain an understanding of how old growth is being managed in each region of the province, is working with the Oil and Gas Commission to ensure objectives for old growth are consistent and is improving tools to conduct analysis of several biodiversity indicators."

However, the investigation also highlighted some of the challenges licensees face in achieving old-growth retention on multi-tenured Crown forested land where some tenured users are required to maintain old-growth and others are not. The Board believes that old-growth retention

requirements, as well as requirements for other values (e.g., wildlife habitat areas), should apply regardless of which industrial sector is developing the land. The report includes six recommendations to improve the management of old growth.

### Road and Bridge Practices - Board Audit Findings 2005 - 2011: Special Report

This special report looks at the results of Board audits under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act* over the last seven years, specifically focusing on forestry roads and bridges. For all compliance audits carried out between 2005 and 2011, most roads and bridges met the requirements of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, but a surprisingly large number did not, especially since 2009.

More than 55 percent of the issues found in audits since 2005 involve roads and bridges. Of particular concern to the Board is the number of issues found in the 2010 and 2011 audits.

### Value of Independent Oversight – Board Bulletin

This bulletin describes the benefits to the BC public of having the Forest Practices Board provide independent oversight of forest and range practices and suggests the same type of oversight might also benefit other resource sectors that operate on Crown land.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

How much of British Columbia's forest is not satisfactorily restocked? And what should be done about it?

The term not satisfactorily restocked (NSR) has been used by some to describe all of the forests where there might not be a 'satisfactory' number and type of trees.

The Board concluded that the combined total area of known NSR and estimated NSR (yet to be surveyed) may be as much as two million hectares. The current situation related to NSR clearly has implications for future timber supply, particularly in beetle-affected forests in the central interior of British Columbia. However, substantial work is required to adequately understand the magnitude and timing of those implications. The Board made three recommendations to government in the report.



"The Board made three recommendations to government in the report. In response, government has completed an update to estimates of stocking status and potential investment and has initiated some major inventory projects with an emphasis on forests impacted by mountain pine beetle."

### The Need to Manage Cumulative Effects – Board Bulletin

This bulletin points out the growing accumulation of resource developments being permitted on Crown land and the lack of a framework to manage the cumulative effects of all this development. It points to real examples the Board has seen through its auditing of forest activities, and suggests the need to manage cumulative effects is one of the most pressing issues facing resource managers in BC today.

### Reflections on FRPA

This report will provide Board observations regarding the management framework provided by the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and how well it is working for forest and range planning and practices. Bulletins on Professional Reliance, Public Consultation and One Land Manager are in development and will be published in 2013.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### NEW PROJECTS STARTED IN 2012/13 (NOT COMPLETED AT MARCH 31, 2013)

Name	Summary
Karst Management Special Investigation	Karst is a distinctive topography in which the landscape is largely shaped by the dissolving action of water on carbonate rock (usually limestone). This special investigation will assess whether forest practices on northern Vancouver Island comply with legislation and if the forest management framework provides for adequate management of karst resource features.
Monitoring Licensees' Compliance with Legislation	The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has a broad mandate but continues to be responsible for monitoring forest and range licensees' compliance with legislation. However, with staff reductions, smaller budgets, and an integrated delivery model, the ministry's focus on these activities may have diminished. This special investigation will seek to determine the extent to which the ministry is monitoring forest and range licensees' compliance with legislation.
Rollup of Complaints (2003-2012)	This report will provide a summary of public concerns and complaints received by the Board since 2003.
Resource Risk Framework and Decision-making in BC	Building on Board reports that identified issues in risk assessment and decision-making, this report will summarize how risk is being considered, the main issues and concerns, and considerations for improvement in the current approach to risk management and decision-making.
Range Issues in BC	The Board has completed a wealth of reports about BC's range land over the years. Numerous recommendations have been made and yet the Board continues to receive concerns and complaints. This report will highlight the trends it has observed in range planning practices and enforcement over time and what is needed in the future.
Reflections on FRPA	This report will provide Board observations regarding the management framework provided by the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> , and how well it is working for forest and range planning and practices.
Bulletins	Bulletins on Professional Reliance, Public Consultation and One Land Manager are in development and will be published in 2013.

#### APPEALS SUMMARY

- 36 determinations examined
- 6 appeals examined
- 2 appeals joined
- 0 appeals initiated
- 2 appeals in progress
- 1 appeal concluded

## APPEALS



In the period April 2012 to March 2013 there were 36 determinations (including remediation orders) made under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the *Wildfire Act*, six of which were appealed to the Forest Appeals Commission. Of the six appeals, the Board joined two. One appeal joined by the Board was later withdrawn and another appeal joined in 2011 is still in progress.

### Unger Appeal

In June 2012, the Board joined an appeal of a fire centre manager's decision relating to a wildfire that escaped from private land to Crown land. The manager ordered the landowner to pay the government's fire control costs of \$861,356.06. At issue is the scope of

the manager's authority to make an order. The manager decided that his authority was limited to ordering the owner to pay all of the costs or none of the costs.

### Babine Appeal

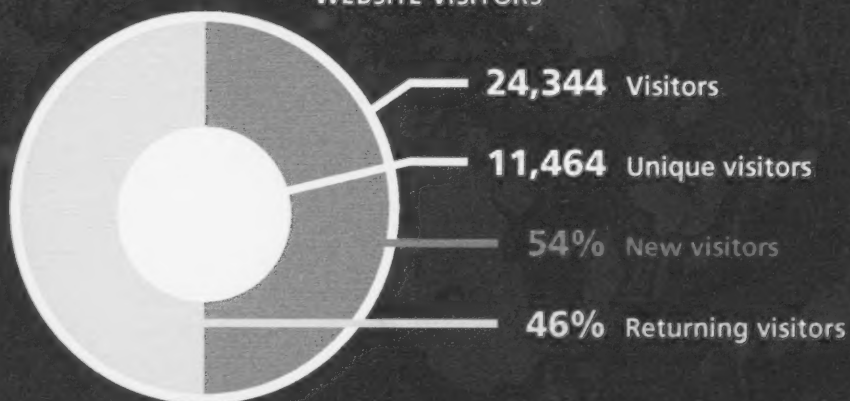
In December 2011, the Board joined an appeal by Babine Forest Products Ltd. challenging a district manager's decision not to approve Babine's forest stewardship plan amendment that proposed a result or strategy for a visual quality objective. The manager concluded that the amendment was not consistent to the extent practicable with the objective. Babine claims that the approval test under section 16(1) of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* was wrongly applied.

### COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY FOR 2012-2013\*

- 103** Facebook Likes
- 123** Twitter Followers
- 8** Speaking Engagements
- 17** Conferences, AGMs & Events attended
- 2** Newsletters published

*\*Data is for April 1, 2012 to  
March 31, 2013*

### WEBSITE VISITORS





## COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

### MOST POPULAR WEBSITE PAGES:

1. Home Page
2. Report Search Page
3. Board Staff
4. Board Member Bios
5. News release on Forest Road and Bridge Special Report (Feb 2013)
6. Glossary of Terms
7. Employment
8. Eye on BC Forests Summer 2012 Newsletter (Issue 7)
9. Eye on BC Forests Winter 2013 Newsletter (Issue 8)
10. FPB Profile

### MOST POPULAR REPORT DOWNLOADS:

1. Road and Bridge Practices – Audit Findings 2005-2011
2. Cumulative Effects, From Assessment Towards Management
3. Audit of 60654 BC Ltd. in the Chilliwack District
4. How Much of BC is Not Satisfactorily Restocked?
5. Conserving Old Growth Forests in BC
6. Laird Creek Landslide
7. Upgrading of the Trout Mainline
8. Audit of BCTS in the Campbell River District

9. Planting Seedlings on Harvested Sites
10. Salvage Logging and Water Flows at Cooper Creek

### MEDIA COVERAGE

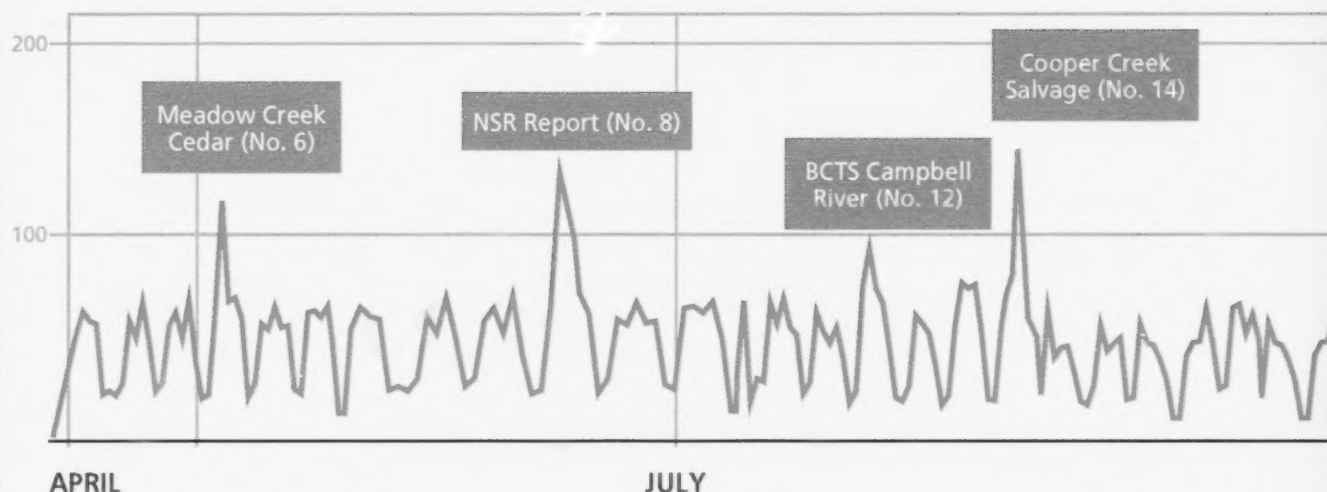
- 30 News Releases Issued
- 53 Media Interviews
- 140 Media Stories (print, broadcast and online coverage)





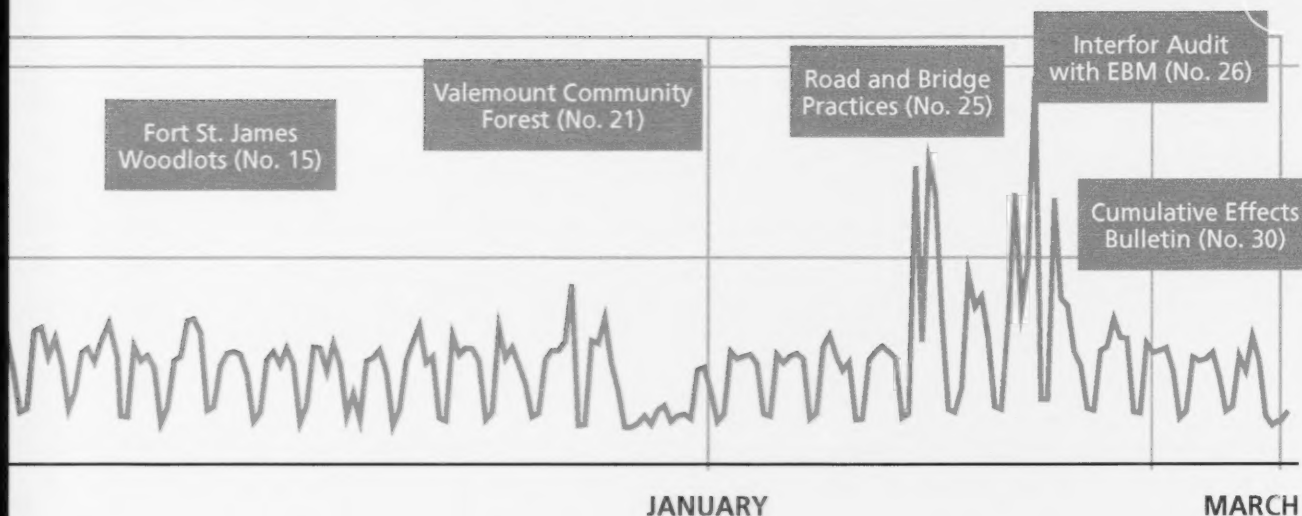
# COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

## WEBSITE VISITS



## REPORTS PUBLISHED

1. Upgrading of the Trout Mainline Road, Complaint Investigation – Apr. 2012
2. J.H. Huscroft Ltd. - (FL) A20213 in the Selkirk District; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices – Apr. 2012
3. Toba Inlet Closing Letter, Complaint Investigation – Apr. 2012
4. BC Timber Sales - Prince George Business Area, Mackenzie District: Forestry Audit – Apr. 2012
5. Davidson Creek Access Management, Complaint Investigation – May 2012
6. Meadow Creek Cedar Ltd. - Forest Practices and Government Enforcement, Complaint Investigation – May 2012
7. Gilpin Creek Debris Slide, Complaint Investigation – May 2012
8. How much of BC's forest is not satisfactorily restocked - and what should be done about it?, Special Report – June 2012
9. Conserving Old Growth Forests in BC, Special Investigation – June 2012
10. Aspen Logging - Grazing Conflict in the Dawson Creek TSA, Complaint Investigation – June 2012
11. Eye on BC Forests, Issue 7, Summer 2012 – July 2012
12. BC Timber Sales - Strait of Georgia Business Area, Campbell River District – July 2012
13. Oyama and Vernon Creek Community Watersheds - Audit of Forest and Range Planning and Practices (water quality) – Aug. 2012
14. Salvage Logging and Water Flows at Cooper Creek, Complaint Investigation – Aug. 2012
15. Six Woodlot Licences in the Fort St. James District - Audit of Forest Planning and Practices – 3 reports – Aug. 2012



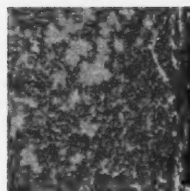
16. Amabilis Contracting - NRFL A79575 in the Cariboo-Chilcotin District - Sept. 2012
17. MaMook Natural Resources Limited, TFL 54 in Clayoquot Sound: Audit of Forest Planning and Practices - Oct 2012
18. 2011/12 Annual Report - Oct. 2012
19. West Fraser Mills Limited in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area: Audit of Forest Planning and Practices - Nov. 2012
20. BC Timber Sales - Rocky Mountain District; Forestry Audit. - Nov. 2012
21. Valemount Community Forest Company Ltd - Community Forest Agreement K2T; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices - Dec. 2012
22. Stella-Jones Canada Incorporated - FL A20196 in the Arrow TSA; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices - Dec. 2012
23. Eye on BC Forests, Issue 8, Winter 2012
24. 606546 B.C. Ltd. in the Chilliwack Forest District; Audit of Timber Harvest, Road Construction, Deactivation and Maintenance, and Wildfire Activities - Feb. 2013
25. Road & Bridge Practices, Special Report - Feb. 2013
26. Interfor in the North Island-Central Coast District; Audit of Forest Planning and Practices with EBM - Feb. 2013
27. Biodiversity Management in the Revelstoke Timber Supply Area, Complaint Investigation - Feb. 2013
28. Laird Creek Landslide, Complaint Investigation - Feb. 2013
29. Bulletin 012 - Independent Oversight of Forest and Range Practices (2013) - Feb 2012
30. Bulletin 013 - The Need to Manage Cumulative Effects - Feb 2012
31. Canadian Forest Products Ltd. Tree Farm Licence 48 in the Peace District: Audit of Forest Planning and Practices - March 2013

## FINANCIAL REPORT

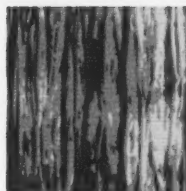
	Board Members & Executive	Complaint Investigations	Audits	Legal	Special Projects & Communications	Administration & Overhead	TOTAL
Salaries & Benefits	339,184	366,824	611,523	363,291	434,841	172,936	2,288,599
Other Operating Costs	136,429	67,850	482,795	12,531	207,723	579,122	1,486,450
Total Operating Expenditures	475,613	434,674	1,094,318	375,822	642,564	752,058	3,775,049
Total Capital Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	475,613	434,674	1,094,318	375,822	642,564	752,058	3,775,049
Budget							3,815,000

### Notes

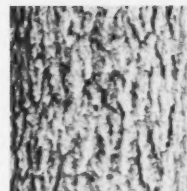
1. "Board Members and Executive" expenditures cover those of the Chair of the Board, the part-time Board members, the office of the Executive Director, and staff providing direct support to the Board members.
2. "Legal" expenditures covers legal advice on all files of the Board, including review and appeals.
3. "Administration and Overhead" includes building occupancy charges, amortization, software licensing, centralized support charges, and salaries associated with support for finance, human resources and information systems.
4. Communications costs are estimated at \$100,000.



Tamarack  
*Larix laricina*



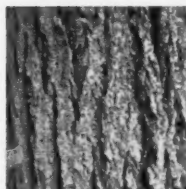
Western redcedar  
*Thuja plicata*



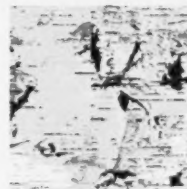
Lodgepole pine  
*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*



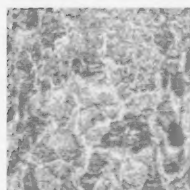
Trembling aspen  
*Populus tremuloides*



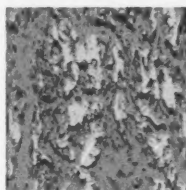
Douglas-fir  
*Pseudotsuga menziesii*



Paper birch  
*Betula papyrifera*



Sitka spruce  
*Picea sitchensis*



Ponderosa pine  
*Pinus ponderosa*



Western hemlock  
*Tsuga heterophylla*

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3. British Columbia. Forest and Range Practices Act - Periodicals.

4. Forest policy - British Columbia - Periodicals.

5. Forest management - British Columbia - Periodicals.

6. Forestry law and legislation - British Columbia - Periodicals. I. Title.

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